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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

Sub A²

1. A method for conducting a commercial transaction in a distributed data processing system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
recording an electronic receipt on a removable storage medium at a first data processing system, the
electronic receipt comprising data concerning a commercial transaction;
reading the removable storage medium at a second data processing system;
validating the electronic receipt stored on the removable storage medium at the second data processing system; and
in response to validating the electronic receipt, conducting a commercial transaction.

20 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of validating the electronic receipt further comprises inspecting a digital signature to verify the integrity of the electronic receipt.

Sub A³

3. A method for processing an electronic receipt, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
processing a purchase transaction;
generating an electronic receipt comprising data concerning the purchase transaction;
30 storing the electronic receipt on a removable storage medium;

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Sub A' ~~reading the electronic receipt on the removable storage medium;~~

~~validating the electronic receipt; and~~

~~in response to validating the electronic receipt,~~

5 providing an indication to proceed with a delivery of goods or services related to the purchase transaction.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of validating the electronic receipt further comprises inspecting a

10 digital signature to verify the integrity of the electronic receipt.

Sub A' ~~5. A method for processing an electronic receipt, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:~~

15 ~~reading an electronic receipt from a removable storage medium;~~

~~validating the electronic receipt; and~~

~~in response to validating the electronic receipt,~~ providing an indication to proceed with a delivery of

20 goods or services related to a purchase transaction.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

~~processing a purchase transaction;~~

~~generating an electronic receipt comprising data~~

25 concerning the purchase transaction; and

~~storing the electronic receipt on a removable storage medium.~~

7. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

30 reading the electronic receipt from the removable storage medium;

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generating a modified electronic receipt comprising data concerning the delivery of goods or services for the purchase transaction; and

5 storing the modified electronic receipt on the removable storage medium.

Su b A5 8. The method of claim 5 further comprising:
prior to validating the electronic receipt,
selecting one of a plurality of electronic receipts in
10 accordance with user input.

9. The method of claim 5 wherein the electronic receipt may be validated a number of times for a purchase transaction that requires a plurality of deliveries of
15 good or services.

10. The method of claim 5 wherein the electronic receipt may be validated for a claim for servicing of a product subject to the purchase transaction.

20 11. The method of claim 5 wherein the electronic receipt may be validated for a warranty claim on goods or services subject to the purchase transaction.

25 12. The method of claim 5 wherein the removable storage medium is a smart card.

13. The method of claim 5 wherein the removable storage medium is an optical card.

30 14. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of validating

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the electronic receipt further comprises inspecting a digital signature to verify the integrity of the electronic receipt.

5 15. A data processing system for conducting a commercial transaction, the data processing system comprising:

 input means for inputting commercial transaction data;

 transmitting means for transmitting commercial transaction data to a merchant server;

 receiving means for receiving commercial transaction data from a merchant server;

 display means for displaying commercial transaction data;

10 15. reading means for reading a removable storage medium for storing electronic receipts, the electronic receipts comprising commercial transaction data; and

 recording means for recording an electronic receipt on the removable storage medium.

20 16. A data processing system for conducting a commercial transaction, the data processing system comprising:

 reading means for reading a removable storage medium for storing an electronic receipt, the electronic receipts comprising commercial transaction data;

25 validating means for validating the electronic receipt; and

 indicating means for providing an indication to proceed with a delivery of goods or services related to the purchase transaction in response to validating the electronic receipt.

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17. The data processing system of claim 16 wherein the indicating means displays information concerning a type and quantity of goods encoded within the electronic receipt.

18. The data processing system of claim 16 wherein the validating means further comprises inspecting means for inspecting a digital signature to verify the integrity of the electronic receipt.

19. A data processing system for conducting a commercial transaction, the data processing system comprising:
receiving means for receiving purchase transaction data from a point-of-sale data processing system;
generating means for generating an electronic receipt corresponding to the purchase transaction data;
storing means for storing the purchase transaction data and the corresponding electronic receipt in a datastore; and
transmitting means for transmitting the electronic receipt to the point-of-sale data processing system.

20. A data processing system for conducting a commercial transaction, the data processing system comprising:
processing means for processing a purchase transaction;
generating means for generating an electronic receipt comprising data concerning the purchase transaction; and
storing means for storing the electronic receipt on

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a removable storage medium;
reading means for reading the electronic receipt on
the removable storage medium;
validating means for validating the electronic
receipt; and
indicating means for providing an indication to
proceed with a delivery of goods or services related to
the purchase transaction in response to validating the
electronic receipt.

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21. The data processing system of claim 20 wherein the
validating means further comprises inspecting means for
inspecting a digital signature to verify the integrity of
the electronic receipt.

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22. An article of manufacture comprising:
a protective layer comprising human-readable printed
information; and
a substrate layer comprising a plurality of bit
locations encoding machine-readable information readable
by optical means, wherein the machine-readable
information comprises an electronic receipt, wherein the
electronic receipt comprises commercial transaction data
concerning a purchase of products or services.

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23. The article of manufacture of claim 22 wherein the
commercial transaction data comprises a merchant
identifier, a date of purchase, and a product or service
identifier.

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24. The article of manufacture of claim 22 wherein the

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~~electronic receipt is protected by a digital signature.~~

Sub A^b

25. A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for conducting a commercial transaction, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for recording an electronic receipt on a removable storage medium at a first data processing system, the electronic receipt comprising data concerning a commercial transaction;

10 second instructions for reading the removable storage medium at a second data processing system;

third instructions for validating the electronic receipt stored on the removable storage medium at the second data processing system; and

15 fourth instructions for conducting a commercial transaction in response to validating the electronic receipt.

26. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the instructions for validating the electronic receipt further comprise instructions for inspecting a digital signature to verify the integrity of the electronic receipt.

Sub C⁷

27. A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for processing an electronic receipt, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for processing a purchase transaction;

30 second instructions for generating an electronic receipt comprising data concerning the purchase

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Sub A⁷ transaction;

third instructions for storing the electronic receipt on a removable storage medium;

5 fourth instructions for reading the electronic receipt on the removable storage medium;

fifth instructions for validating the electronic receipt; and

sixth instructions for providing an indication to proceed with a delivery of goods or services related to
10 the purchase transaction in response to validating the electronic receipt.

28. The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for validating the electronic receipt

15 further comprise instructions for inspecting a digital signature to verify the integrity of the electronic receipt.

Add A⁸